Amendments to the Claims:

This claim listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1. (currently amended) A modified phosphorothioate oligonucleotide ~~composition~~ for inhibiting specific gene expression with reduced side effects, the modification ~~composition comprising a phosphorothioate oligonucleotide containing~~ consisting of a modified CpG dinucleotide, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene for which inhibition of expression is desired, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, and wherein the modified CpG is 2'-O-substituted CpG.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for providing a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets when administered to a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal ~~a composition~~ an oligonucleotide comprising a modified ~~CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide that is~~ CpG dinucleotide, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene for which inhibition of expression is desired, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, and wherein the modified CpG is selected from the group consisting of alkylphosphonate CpG, ~~2'-O-substituted CpG,~~ phosphotriester CpG, stereospecific phosphorothioate CpG, phosphoramidate CpG, inverted CpG and 2'-5' CpG.

4. (currently amended) A method for providing [[c]] CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide[[,]] with reduced side effects[[,]] to an individual with a disease caused by aberrant gene expression, the method comprising administering to an individual having the disease ~~a composition~~ an oligonucleotide comprising a modified ~~CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide that is~~ CpG dinucleotide, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene that is aberrantly expressed, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, and wherein the modified CpG is selected from the group consisting of alkylphosphonate CpG, ~~2'-O-substituted~~

~~CpG,~~ phosphotriester CpG, stereospecific phosphorothioate CpG, phosphoramidate CpG, inverted CpG and 2'-5' CpG.

5. (currently amended) A method for reducing side effects of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide administered to a mammal, comprising:

(a) providing a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide having a CpG modification selected from the group consisting of alkylphosphonate CpG, inverted CpG, ~~2'-O-substituted CpG,~~ stereospecific phosphorothioate CpG, phosphotriester CpG, phosphoramidate CpG, and 2'-5' CpG; and

(b) administering the modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide to the mammal,

wherein administration of the modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide results in fewer side effects ~~that~~ than the administration of an unmodified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide.

6. – 15. (canceled)

16. (New) A method for providing a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects of splenomegaly and depletion of platelets when administered to a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a modified oligonucleotide wherein the modification consists of a modified CpG dinucleotide, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene for which inhibition of expression is desired, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, and wherein the modified CpG is 2'-O-substituted CpG.

17. (New) A method for providing CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide with reduced side effects to an individual with a disease caused by aberrant gene expression, the method comprising administering to an individual having the disease a modified oligonucleotide wherein the modification consists of a modified CpG dinucleotide, wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a portion of a genomic region or gene that is aberrantly expressed, or to RNA transcribed from such a gene, and wherein the modified CpG is 2'-O-substituted CpG.

18. (New) A method for reducing side effects of a CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide administered to a mammal, comprising:

(a) providing a modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide wherein the modification consists of a 2'-O-substituted CpG modification; and

(b) administering the modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide to the mammal,

wherein administration of the modified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide results in fewer side effects than the administration of an unmodified CpG-containing phosphorothioate oligonucleotide.